

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 9, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 14

Introduced by Assembly Member Koretz

March 17, 2003

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 14—Relative to the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 14, as amended, Koretz. Arab economic boycott of Israel.

The measure would urge the President of the United States and the Governor to strictly enforce United States and California antiboycott legislation. This measure would condemn the Arab League's economic boycott of Israel and call on the Arab League and its members to disavow and end this boycott.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, In 1946, the Arab League instituted an economic
2 boycott against the Jewish community in Mandatory Palestine,
3 and after the State of Israel was born in 1948, the Arab League
4 established a Central Boycott Office in 1951 to coordinate the
5 Arab effort to strangle Israel economically; and
6 WHEREAS, The Arab boycott operates on several levels: the
7 primary boycott prohibits Arabs from doing business with Israel,
8 the secondary boycott blacklists companies doing business with
9 Israel, and the tertiary boycott blacklists companies doing business
10 with companies targeted by the secondary boycott; and

1 WHEREAS, In the 1980's and 1990's, Arab enforcement of the
2 boycott diminished, but in October of 2002, 18 members of the
3 Arab League meeting in Damascus, Syria (Egypt, Jordan, and
4 Mauritania not attending) agreed to reactivate the Arab economic
5 boycott of Israel; and

6 WHEREAS, The Arab economic boycott of Israel damages
7 Israel's economy, harms the peoples of the Arab countries by
8 limiting their economic freedom, and potentially affects
9 California's economy; and

10 ~~WHEREAS, Participation in the economic boycott of Israel by~~
11 ~~the Arab League and its members calls into question the Arab~~
12 ~~commitment to the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israel conflict;~~

13 *WHEREAS, While the recent moves toward reform in the*
14 *Palestinian Authority and renewed United States and*
15 *international engagement have produced hopeful signs of progress*
16 *on the path towards peace, participation in the economic boycott*
17 *of Israel by Arab states continues to call into question the Arab*
18 *commitment to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and the support for*
19 *a comprehensive peace in the region; and*

20 WHEREAS, Participation in or compliance with the Arab
21 economic boycott of Israel is illegal under the United States Export
22 Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. Sec. 2402 and
23 following), and California state trust moneys may not be invested
24 in business firms that comply with the Arab economic boycott of
25 Israel, nor may state moneys be deposited with financial
26 institutions that comply with the Arab economic boycott of Israel
27 (Sec. 16649.80 and following, Gov. C.); now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California,*
29 *jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California strongly*
30 *condemns the Arab League's economic boycott of Israel, and*
31 *particularly the October of 2002 decision to reactivate the boycott;*
32 *and be it further*

33 *Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California calls on*
34 *the Arab League and its members to demonstrate a commitment*
35 *to peace with Israel by disavowing and ending the economic*
36 *boycott of Israel; and be it further*

37 *Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California urges*
38 *the President of the United States and the Governor of California*
39 *to strictly enforce United States and California antiboycott*
40 *legislation; and be it further*

1 *Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
2 President of the United States, to each Senator and Representative
3 from California in the Congress of the United States, to the
4 Governor of California, and to the Arab League.

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